(c) if so, to what extent Government has been successful in introducing this technology in power; and

(d) to what extent Government is making efforts for its immediate use?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SCURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Government are aware of a press report which attributed the idea of power plants based on "Rice Husk Ash" (RHA) to the Institute for Solid Waste Research & Ecological Balance (INSWAREB) at Visakhapatnam. The press report is misleading in that it is rice husk and not rice husk ash which is used to generate electricity. Government are aware of the views of the Institute. The use of rick husk and other kinds of biomass to generate power is well-known. Such projects can bring about sustainable development, with socio-economic benefits for the rural areas, as well as other environmental benefits.

(b) Technology for using rick husk ash as a pozzolana has been developed and established in India and several other countries, but it has not yet been utilized at commercial scale in India.

(c) and (d) A total capacity of 164 MW has already been installed in the country for generation of power from biomass, including rice husk. A capacity of 218 MW is under implementation. A target of 250 MW has been set for biomass power generation during the Tenth Plan. Central Financial Assistance is provided for various types of projects besides other promotional incentives. Soft loans for commercial projects are available from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA). Policies have been introduced in various States for grid connection of biomass power projects.

Committee set up to enhance file movements

1483. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a Committee to examine the inordinate delay in decision making owing to red tapism and babudom;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) time by when the Committee has been asked to submit its report; and

(d) the other measures to expedite the decision making and speed up file movement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) With a view to expediting the decision making and to speed up the file movement, the Government has recently issued the following instructions to all the Ministries/Departments:—

(i) As a general rule, levels for final disposal may be restricted to three. However, there may be exceptions, *e.g.* policy matters, Parliament Questions etc. for which each Ministry/Department may formulate clear guidelines indicating channels and levels of decision making.

(ii) Ordinarily, not more than two working days may be taken by an officer to dispose of a file.

(iii) Each Ministry/Department will review the existing guidelines regarding channels/levels of submissions of different categories of cases to delegate powers to lower functionaries and clearly indicate the level of final decision-making.

2. Another initiative aimed at expediting the delivery of services is implementation of a 12-Point Minimum Agenda for promotion of e-governance in the functioning of the Ministries/Departments The minimum agenda encompasses areas such as setting up of LAN, training and capacity building in IT, use of e-mail and e-enabling official processes such as level application, grievance redress, setting up of website, electronic publication of information, making available forms in the website, enabling submission of forms on-line and e-delivery of citizen services accelerating the pace of training and capacity building, etc.